

**Alternative Energy Committee
July 29, 2014**

Members present: Larry Bean, Chair; Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Carl Frederickson (10:05am), and Tom Banner
Members absent: Glenn Carlson
Town Staff Present: Pete Clark, Town Administrator
Public present:

1. Call to order.

The Alternative Energy Committee meeting called to order by Chair L. Bean on Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

2. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. June 24, 2014.

Short discussion of budgeted amounts.

Motion by B. Henry to approve the June 24, 2014 minutes as presented, second, T. Banner. All in favor, 3 ayes. Motion carried.

3. Review of Responses to the Request For Proposals (RFP) for Planning/design of Solar Micro-grid for the Town and Possible Recommendation to the Town Board for contract.

Four proposals have been received:

Alternative Trends

North Wind Renewable Energy

Auth Consulting and Associates and Carr Electric

Chippewa Valley Alternative Energy

3 of the proposals included cost for the plan/design in the amounts of \$12,000, \$20,000 and \$25,000. The amount budgeted is \$10,000.

Proposal from Alternative Trends discussed the installation of a micro-grid, not the plan/design. There is good information in the proposal but not what the committee was looking for.

Carl Frederickson now present.

Chippewa Valley included information on rural electric cooperatives which does not pertain to us. Chippewa Valley spent a day and half on the Island looking at all Town facilities and electric use of those facilities. They noted that the Wastewater Treatment plan is not a Town property and so the Town is not billed for that energy use. However, in an emergency, which is really part and parcel of a micro-grid approach, you have to deal with wastewater and water treatment has to be part of the emergency plan.

Another interesting item is that the grid serves the entire Island so we may not be able to the isolate the consumption of energy of Town services from the rest of the Island. The committee had talked about installations at the Library and Clinic but in light of this information, there may be more installations.

Also interesting is that we have five generators and not three. These generators also tell us and the contractors what our priorities are for the Town, even though this is not stated in the Emergency Plan. EMS, Airport, Clinic and Town Hall all have generators so there is a piece of the micro-grid already in place.

L. Bean has talked to Connie Ross, Library Director and hoped she would be at this meeting. Connie circulated the RFP to the Library Board; she thinks the Board is very receptive and willing to put some money into this initiative, but no idea how much. L. Bean told Connie the first proposal came in at \$19,000 which is \$9,000 over the AEC budget.

L. Bean has the following criteria he uses to grade proposals that is based on a point system of 100: 1). Experience and qualifications 2). Completeness of project objective. 3). Cost 4). Willingness to negotiate.

L. Bean did not choose Auth Consulting because they mentioned microgrid once and that was in the subject line. Need to hear opinions from committee members.

B. Henry said the proposals talked about pricing for Phase 1. L. Bean said the plan/design could be done in two phases, but not necessarily: Phase 1: Stand alone solar array;

Phase 2: Integration of the microgrid.

L. Bean said his choices are Chippewa Valley and North Wind. He was impressed that they came to the Island for a site visit. Chippewa Valley is the vendor for one product, the TenKsolar collector but this would not be a concern because the RFP is for a planning/design study. When the project goes to the construction stage the Town would most likely bid for the collectors.

T. Banner said he will add technology to his grading criteria.

L. Bean said in conversations with contractors, two companies did ask to extend the deadline and he told them this would not be fair to those who prepared the proposals on time. Another question was if September 25th was the actual deadline for the report. L. Bean told them that date was negotiable.

L. Bean spent most of the day with contractors on Saturday, July 26th. T. Banner was there for an hour and then the contractors saw him when he was at dinner Friday night.

L. Bean said the Chippewa Valley proposal stated they would, for an extra cost, hire an engineer for the expedited exemption for the landfill. North Wind recognizes the exemption is of highest priority and has included the exemption in their package. The North Wind proposal, to deliver the design/plan and report would not exceed \$19,700; all deliverable, including the expedited exemption (#6 of the proposals.) North Wind personnel are engineers; that is not the case with Chippewa Valley.

Before any decisions are made the committee needs to officially contact the Library Board to find out, by an exact date, the amount of money the Library is willing to contribute and also the source of this money to pay for the design/plan project as \$10,000 is needed.

Motion by B. Henry that the AEC send a letter to Connie Ross, Library Director and the Library Board stating that we are in the process of choosing a contractor for the study; that our present budget is not sufficient for this and we require \$10,000 from the Library budget. We request that the Library Board provide us with the funding source from the Library budget. If that source is from the Town's side of the budget that will not be acceptable to us.

Discussion. Pete Clark suggests that the Library state the designated fund the money would come from. Committee agrees. B. Henry adds to the motion that an answer is required by Monday, August 4th. Second, T. Banner. All in favor, all aye, motion passes.

L. Bean will prepare a letter and will send the letter out today or first thing tomorrow. He also needs to send a response to people who sent proposals and were not considered.

L. Bean said there is a \$550 fee to the DNR for the expedited exemption. The Chippewa Valley proposal includes that fee; North Wind does not. The North Wind proposal now totals \$20,250.

Discussion of the email from Robert Germer, DNR in regards to the expedited exemption at the landfill. L. Bean responded to the email and thanked him and explained they met with the DNR in Madison last year and that meeting included Tom Bennwitz, who conducted the site survey and Bob Strous. L. Bean said the DNR was very supportive of this project.

L. Bean would like the committee to prepare a list of recommendations for the Town before we move into the fall. After spending time with the electric use in the Town, it is interesting to see who the high energy users are and it is not clear why electric use is so high. The Committee needs to look at the three highest users and put together a program so the Town can address them.

T. Banner leaves at 10:35pm.

4. Discussion and/or Formation of Advisory Team for Solar Micro-grid project.

More discussion is needed.

5. Regional Energy Activities.

L. Bean did meet on July 26th with the Chequamegon Bay Area Alternative Energy Interest which included the mayors of Bayfield, Washburn, the Bayfield County Administrator, Alliance for Sustainability, the Ashland Technical College and a number of others. This meeting was well attended and discussion centered on what is going on in the area and how to accelerate the adoption of alternative energy in our area.

6. Set next meeting and agenda.

To accommodate T. Banner's schedule, AEC meetings will be scheduled for Wednesday. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 6th at 10:00am at Town Hall.

Add budget to the agenda items.

Question in regards to the Chippewa Valley proposal on pg 5, Objective 5: Legal assistance may be required to establish ownership, arrangement to indemnify La Pointe from liability - does the Committee need to answer this? L. Bean said this is a Town construction project. The Town has ownership. This does raise another point under Objective 2 – does the Town have grant writing skills in house or a budget to support a grant writer. The committee wrote several grants for the Wind study. Lisa Potswald, Planning and Zoning Administrator is a grant writer and has offered to write grants for the AEC.

L. Bean would like to find the 20/25 application that was submitted by the Alliance for Sustainability for several local communities, including Madeline Island. There was good boiler plate information in that application that we could use.

7. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by C. Frederickson, second, B. Henry. All in favor, all aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45am

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant. Approved as presented August 6, 2014